

Tips for leading energy observations

Energy observations are a simple way for students to understand how a school uses energy and how the people in the school can change their behaviours to save energy.

Consider these tips when planning the energy observations with your students:

- Divide the school into areas and assign pairs/groups of students to specific areas to collect data from the whole school.
- Consider how best to pair or group students for the energy observations.
- The Energy Observation Student Handout provides space for students to list the rooms they observe.
- Plan the observations for times when students can enter rooms without disturbing others. Review with students the appropriate conduct for collecting data around the school. For example, being quiet in common areas where others are working, etc. Review any safety guidelines as appropriate.
- Consider having students collect data across multiple days and at different times of the day to allow them to observe changes in behaviour or activities that only happen at certain times.
- Provide student pairs/groups with a clipboard for easy recording.
- Inform staff at your school about the observations and ensure students will be welcomed into other classrooms at appropriate and pre-arranged times.
- Select times and determine rooms and areas of the school each group will be assigned to observe.
- Encourage the use of technology during the observations. Students can take photos as part of their observations or consider digital means of notetaking (voice recording, etc.).

